

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 23-44. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 23-44.

It should be noted that in the Advisory Action dated September 21, 2006, the Examiner erroneously checked box number 1. Box number 2 should have been checked, acknowledging that a Notice of Appeal was filed on July 7, 2006. Accordingly, Applicants are entitled to extensions in accordance with 37 CFR 41.37(e), and more specifically in accordance with 37 CFR 1.136.

Claims 23-44 were amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner, and to bring the claims into conformity with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and 35 U.S.C. §101.

This Amendment includes the amendments to claims 23-44, which were filed on September 7, 2006 (not entered), and includes additional amendments to claims 24 and 36. Claim 24 was further amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection, and claim 36 was further amended to correct a minor informality. These amendments simplify the issues for appeal.

It should be noted that in the Advisory Action dated September 21, 2006, the Examiner erroneously checked box number 1. Box number 2 should have been checked, acknowledging that a Notice of Appeal was filed on July 7, 2006. Accordingly, Applicants are entitled to extensions in accordance with 37 CFR 41.37(e), and more specifically in accordance with 37 CFR 1.136.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.41092X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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